UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.5/48/7
1 October 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 122

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Administrative and financial arrangements regarding the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

Note by the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. In document A/C.5/46/23, the Secretary-General reported to the General Assembly on the administrative and financial arrangements he proposed to apply to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), established in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990 on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), having considered that report in conjunction with another report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken to implement resolution 45/179 (A/46/480), also presented its comments and observations (A/46/7/Add.9).

2. On the basis of those reports, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/185 of 20 December 1991, part C, section XVI (section 22), which relates to the administrative and financial arrangements for UNDCP. In it, the Assembly acted on the proposed financial arrangements by (a) deciding to establish, as from 1 January 1992, under the direct responsibility of the Executive Director of the Programme, the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a fund for financing the Programme's operational activities; (b) authorizing the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the principal United Nations policy-making body on drug control issues, to approve, on the basis of the Executive Director's proposals, both the budget of the Fund's programme and the administrative and programme support costs budget, other than expenditures borne by the regular budget of the United Nations; (c) requesting ACABQ to submit its comments and recommendations on the administrative and programme support costs budget of UNDCP to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs; (d) noting the Secretary-General's intention to promulgate financial rules for the Fund in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the

United Nations; and (e) deciding that the Executive Director should maintain the accounts of the Fund of the Programme and be responsible for presenting such accounts and related financial statements to the Board of Auditors and for submitting financial reports to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and to the General Assembly.

3. With regard to the proposed structure for UNDCP, in paragraph 4 of the same resolution the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to consider ways to streamline that structure, taking into account, inter alia, the observations of ACABQ and the views expressed in the Fifth Committee, including the need to promote regional cooperation under the coordination of UNDCP in consultation with the regional commissions and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

4. As regards the proposed personnel arrangements, in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to consider the arrangements relating to personnel for UNDCP funded by the United Nations regular budget at a later stage during the forty-sixth session and requested the Secretary-General, meanwhile, to take all measures necessary to expedite the recruitment of such personnel.

5. At the forty-seventh session, the Secretariat reported that the structure as well as the financial and personnel arrangements for the Programme were still under review (A/C.5/47/44). In addition, in view of the fact that the ongoing restructuring exercise might also have implications for the structure of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Secretariat proposed to submit the requested report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

6. In order to facilitate further consideration of the matter at the current session, the present note provides information on action taken by the Secretary-General to give effect to the decisions of the General Assembly contained in resolution 46/185, part C, section XVI.

I. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

7. The Executive Director's proposed budget estimates of the UNDCP Fund for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.7/1992/12/Add.1), together with the report of ACABQ on the proposed administrative and programme support costs of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/CN.7/1992/12/Add.3), were considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session in April 1992. 1/ By its resolution 12 (XXXV), the Commission, having considered both reports, approved the budget estimates of the programme of the Fund of UNDCP and of the administrative and programme support costs budget of the Fund for the biennium 1992-1993. The Commission also decided in its resolution 13 (XXXV) on the methodology to be followed in future by UNDCP with reference to the approval by it of the proposed budget estimates of the Fund. At its thirty-sixth session, in March 1993, the Commission considered the proposed revision of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the proposed outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/CN.7/1993/5), as well as the report of ACABQ on the revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed outline for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/CN.7/1993/11). The Commission, in its resolution

13 (XXXVI), provided further guidance on the format and methodology for the biennial programme budget and outline for the Fund of UNDCP.

8. Having reviewed the proposed financial rules of the Fund of UNDCP annexed to document A/C.5/46/23 in the light of the comments of ACABQ (A/46/7/Add.9), the Secretary-General has concluded that, for the time being, the Programme should be able to continue to operate in the framework of the Financial Rules of the United Nations. Should experience show that the functioning of UNDCP requires separate Financial Rules, the Secretary-General would be prepared to review the situation.

II. PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

9. Staff who are employed against posts financed from the Fund of UNDCP and approved by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs shall be appointed under United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and such appointments shall be limited to service with UNDCP. Efforts will be made to recruit such staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Executive Director of UNDCP will have the authority to recruit and appoint staff within the approved staffing table, up to and including the D-1 level. All efforts will be made to facilitate rotation of internationally recruited staff between UNDCP headquarters and its field offices. UNDCP will also have the authority to enter into contracts with all project personnel. Recruitment and administration of the staff of UNDCP will be carried out through the United Nations Office at Vienna. The Executive Director would, for this purpose, make use of the Personnel Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

10. An administrative instruction on the delegation of authority for personnel arrangements for UNDCP from the Secretary-General to the Executive Director was issued on 14 September 1993 (ST/AI/388).

III. STREAMLINING OF THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

11. The original proposals for the structure of UNDCP were based on a rather lengthy process, including the report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the efficiency of the United Nations structure for drug abuse control (A/45/652), the report of the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to advise him on that matter (A/45/652/Add.1), General Assembly resolution 45/179 and subsequent action by the Secretary-General, such as the Secretary-General's bulletin on UNDCP of 26 June 1991 (ST/SGB/240).

12. Bearing in mind this process and taking into account observations of ACABQ and the views expressed in the Fifth Committee during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has streamlined the structure of UNDCP. The Programme is headed by an Executive Director, at the under-secretary-general level, who reports to the Secretary-General. The Programme is composed of the following organizational elements:

(a) The Executive Director

(i) Office of the Executive Director

(ii) Policy Planning and Evaluation Unit

(iii) External Relations and Public Affairs Unit

(b) Division for Treaty Implementation and Support Services

(i) Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Branch

(ii) Programme Support Section

(iii) Information Resources Management Branch

(c) Division for Operational Activities and Technical Services

(i) Operational Activities Branch

(ii) Technical Services Branch

A detailed description of the organizational elements of UNDCP and their functions was issued on 27 July 1993 (ST/SGB/Organization, United Nations International Drug Control Programme).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 5, (E/1992/25-E/CN.7/1992/14).